Statement

Estimates of Procurement of Rice (Including paddy in terms of rice) as well as the actual procurement by FCI and State Agencies in West Bengal during the Last Five Years including the current year

(Figures in lakh tonnes)

KMS procurement	Estimate of Procurement by FCI (in terms of rice)	Actual Procurement (in terms of rice)	Actual Procurement by State Agencies	Total Procurement
2001-02	No estimates were drawn up	—	0.48	0.48
2002-03	4	1.26	—	1.26
2003-04	7.48	6.29	2.96	9.25
2004-05	10	3.18	6.26	9.44
2005-06	8.94	12.20#	4.66	16.86*

Includes procurement by State Agencies financed by FCI.

* As on 21.08.06

Production of Ethanol

†3067. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:
DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that there is a need to promote production of ethanol after the decision having been taken for mixing ethanol in petrol in the country;

(b) if so, the reaction of Government in this regard and the assessment of total maximum ethanol production in the country in the year 2006-07; and

(c) its minimum and maximum expected selling price?

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Sugar Development Fund provides financial assistance in the form of loan, subject to a maximum of 40% of the cost of project to meet the shortfall in the promoters' contribution at a concessional rate of interest, of 2% below the "Bank Rate" to the sugar factories for setting up of plants for production of ethanol from molasses as well as alcohol. In order to ensure that ethanol produced is utilised, the Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas has mandated marketing of 5% ethanol blended with petrol w.e.f. 1.1.2003 in nine States, *viz.,* A.P., Karnataka, T.N., U.P., Punjab, Haryana, Maharashtra, Gujarat and Goa and in four Union Territories, namely Chandigarh, Pondicherry, Daman & Diu and Dadra & Nagar Haveli, In the second phase, the Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas has plans to extend the Ethanol Blended Petrol (EBP) programme to the rest of the country. Ethanol production depends on its demand and price. Ethanol is manufactured from rectified spirit, the production of which has been estimated at 2380 million litres in 2006-07 according to industry sources.

(c) The minimum and maximum selling price of ethanol depends on its demand and supply and other factors affecting price.

Price of Edible Oils

†3068. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:
SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the domestic units and owners engaged in the processing of vegetable oil said unanimously that due to increase in the international prices of edible oils in the coming months, prices would increase in the country also;

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto; and

(c) whether Government have taken any measures to control the prices, if not, the reasons therefor?

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.